

For News Media Planning Purposes

April 21, 2004

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ELECTED LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS INVITE LOCAL FAMILIES TO PARTICIPATE IN MOTHER'S DAY MARCH

Federal assault weapons law set to expire, activists call on the President to act

Montgomery, MD – Million Mom March leaders stood with elected leaders, law enforcement, and victims of the D.C. area sniper shooting against gun violence and the devastation it causes. The speakers called on the President to act on his 2000 campaign promise to renew the federal assault weapons law and urged local families to attend the “Mother’s Day March to Halt the Assault.”

“The only way to ensure we keep these horrible guns off our streets is for President Bush to urge Congress to reauthorize this law,” said Lillian Pubillones Nolan, President of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Million Mom March. “Our police want these guns to remain illegal. We want them kept off the streets. We invite everyone who agrees with us to march on Washington on Mother’s Day to make sure our voices are heard.”

The Mother’s Day March to Halt the Assault is organized by the Million Mom March, a nationwide grassroots group working for sensible gun laws. The evening before Mother’s Day, Saturday, May 8, Million Mom March members and other supporters will gather at the first-ever “NRA Blacklist Ball” in Washington D.C. The event’s name plays off the blacklist of people and groups the NRA maintains on its website. Mother’s Day will include an interfaith prayer service and rally at the U.S. Capital, and serve as kickoff for a cross-country van tour to raise awareness about the expiration of the assault weapons law.

“President Bush and Congress have ignored the cries of American mothers,” said Lillian Pubillones Nolan. “We plan to return to Washington on May 9 to finish what we started and let our elected leaders know that we want them to *Halt the Assault* on our families.”

Despite efforts by many legislators and following a veto threat by governor Ehrlich, the General Assembly failed to enact an assault weapons ban during the recently concluded session. Passing a state level assault weapons ban became a priority since the expiration of the federal law is only a few months away.

Major national law enforcement organizations support the reauthorization of the federal assault weapons ban. Among the many law enforcement organization that support extending the ban are the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs’ Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

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The Million Mom March is the nation's largest national, non-partisan, grassroots organization leading the fight to prevent gun violence. Founded in 1999, the Million Mom March is a national grassroots, chapter-based organization dedicated to preventing gun death and injury and supporting victims and survivors of gun violence. On Mother's Day 2000, more than 750,000 people marched on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.